

II. IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0055] as follows:

[0055] In one embodiment, the transfer roller mechanism includes two transfer rollers **210 and 220**. Such an embodiment is shown in FIG. 2. First transfer roller 210, which is located near second blade assembly 205, secures and takes control of a histologic grade slice (not shown) from sample block 200 as soon as that histologic grade slice begins to leave second blade assembly 205. To do this, the rotational speed of first transfer roller 210 may be set to match the linear motion of the holding assembly 240 relative to second blade assembly 205. Further, as discussed above, the transfer rollers can either generate an attractive force or can generate a repulsive force over a portion of their cylindrical surface, or over their entire cylindrical surface. This may depend upon the stage of rotation of the transfer roller. The application of an attractive force, which may be in the form of negative pressure, aids in picking up each histologic grade slice from second blade assembly 205, and also aids in spreading the slice smoothly in its longitudinal dimension. Finally, a repulsive force, which may be in the form of positive air pressure, can assist in the release, or transfer, of the histologic grade slice onto a subsequent transfer roller or onto slide 250 **which may be located on slide conveyer 250**.